

PARENT CONNECTION TO LITERACY

TALKING AND LISTENING ACTIVITIES THAT HELP BUILD LITERACY SKILLS

From Utah State Office of Education and Utah State University
CORE Academy Handbook 2003

Words are an essential building block for literacy development. The more language a child experiences through books and conversation with others, the firmer his foundation in literacy becomes. Many people believe that TV provides the needed language enrichment, but television doesn't develop the child's ability to *speak*. Simply hearing language spoken does not develop the child's expressive vocabulary. It is *talking with others* about seemingly ordinary things such as newspaper ads, cereal boxes, and books that enable a child to make critical connections, laying the foundation for becoming a successful reader.

Following are some talking and listening activities that will help your child develop reading and writing skills.

HEARING SOUNDS THAT MAKE UP WORDS

1. Play with language by singing, rhyming words, and talking about the different sounds of words and letters.
2. Read a variety of poems and nursery rhymes with your child. Encourage your child to fill in the blank with a rhyming word as you read the rhyming text.
3. Read books with your child that play with words and their sounds, such as Dr. Seuss books.
4. Help your child think of words that have the same beginning (Mary, mop, man, mom), ending (hot, cat, sit, mutt, pet, or middle (hat, can, mad, Sam) sounds.
5. Help your child to hear and recognize the non-matching sound or word (cat, can, car, tip).
6. Clap the syllables of familiar names and words.
7. Say a word by segmenting the syllables (tam-bour-ine) and ask your child to identify the word.
8. Say a word slowly and ask your child to say the word fast and identify the word (mmmmaaaannnn).
9. Play sound manipulation games with your child where you substitute a new sound in a word.

BUILDING READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS THROUGH TALKING AND LISTENING

1. Talk about what you see in the world around you.
2. Talk about the things that happen in your lives. For example, as you are working in the kitchen, describe your actions to your child.
3. Ask questions to stimulate conversations.
4. Sing together and talk about what the songs mean.
5. Talk about the books you share. Ask your child to describe what she sees in the pictures, what will happen next, etc.
6. Tell family stories and ask family members and friends to tell stories..
7. Retell stories and events that happen to your child.
8. Encourage your child to tell stories from magazine pictures or photographs.
9. Listen to storytellers at the library or bookstore, and discuss the books read aloud.
10. Act out stories or make puppets of story characters and have a puppet play.
11. Play pretend games with your child, using new and unfamiliar vocabulary.
12. As you read books with your child, talk about unfamiliar words and what they mean.
13. Use “big” and “rare” words as you talk with your child and help your child understand what they mean.
14. Play games with your child and talk about rules and strategies, using the unique words that apply to particular games and sports.
15. Start a weekly vocabulary game where you and your child learn a new and unfamiliar word each week.